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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/228,101	01/11/1999	VOLKMAR SCHROTH		7309

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EXAMINER

HARPER, KEVIN C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2666

DATE MAILED: 12/19/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/228,101

Applicant(s)

SCHROTH, VOLKMAR

Examiner

Kevin C. Harper

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2666

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 October 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 07 October 2002 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Drawings***

1. The proposed drawing correction and/or the proposed substitute sheets of drawings, filed on October 7, 2002 have been approved. A proper drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The correction to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1, 3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen et al (US 5,940,456) in view of Sugawara (US 6,021,112).

2. Regarding claim 1, Chen discloses a circuit arrangement for an SDH transmission system for transmitting plesiochronous signals (Figure 4). The circuit comprises several input channels allocated to plesiochronous signals (note: E1 or E2 at input; col. 5, lines 63-65 and col. 6, lines 4-12), where the input channels are connected to a clock synchronizer (items 502-505) for adapting the received plesiochronous signals to a common processing clock (Figure 510). The circuit also comprises a reception multiplexer following the clock synchronizer. The reception synchronizer transforms a plesiochronous signal (input lines E1 or E2) into a synchronized PDH signal (abstract, lines 1-3). However, Chen does not disclose a reception processing means for transforming the

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synchronized PDH signal into a synchronous signal for an SDH transmission channel. Sugawara discloses a reception processing means (Figure 3, item 40; Figure 6; col. 7, lines 40-42; col. 8, lines 7-12 and col. 1, lines 41-43) for converting between a PDH signal and an SDH signal. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to convert a PDH signal into an SDH signal in the invention of Chen in view of Sugawara in order to transmit data originating in a PDH format over a SDH network.

3. Regarding claim 3, Chen does not disclose a demultiplexer following a reception processing means. Sugawara discloses a demultiplexer (Figure 3, note: add/drop multiplexer; col. 6, lines 32-33) following the reception processing means (Figure 3, item 40). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have a demultiplexer following the reception processing means in the invention of Chen in view of Sugawara in order to retrieve and transmit various signals within the SDH data stream.

4. Regarding claim 6, the reception processing means of Chen in view of Sugawara comprises a synchronizer and mapper (Figure 3, item 411) for equalizing the bit rates of the plesiochronous signal and mapping the equalized plesiochronous signal to provide the synchronous signal (col. 8, lines 7-12).

Claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugawara (US 6,021,112) in view of Chen et al. (US 5,940,456).

5. Regarding claim 4, Sugawara discloses a circuit arrangement for an SDH system for transmitting plesiochronous signals (abstract, lines 1-6) having a multiplexer (Figure 3, note: add/drop multiplexer; col. 6, lines 32-33) which precedes a transmission processing means (Figure 3, item 50). The transmission processing means transforms a synchronous signal into a plesiochronous signal (Figure 17; col. 9, lines 50-52). However, Sugawara does not disclose a

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desynchronizer for recovering the plesiochronous signal clocks and to issue the plesiochronous signals to several output channels. Chen discloses a desynchronizer (Figure 4) for recovering clocks of plesiochronous signals and issuing the plesiochronous signals to several output channels (col. 6, lines 55-57). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to desynchronize a synchronized PDH signal and issue plesiochronous signals to several output channels in the invention of Sugawara in view of Chen in order to deliver smaller individual plesiochronous data streams to different destinations.

6. Regarding claim 5, Sugawara does not disclose a transmission demultiplexer contained in the desynchronizer. Chen discloses a transmission demultiplexer (Figure 4, items 502-505) contained within in the desynchronizer (Figure 4) in order to output lower rate plesiochronous signals. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have a transmission demultiplexer contained in the desynchronizer in the invention of Sugawara in view of Chen.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

7. Claims 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

#### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Harper whose telephone number is 703-305-0139. The examiner can normally be reached weekdays, except Wednesday, from 9:30 AM to 8:00 PM ET.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Seema S. Rao, can be reached at 703-308-5463. The fax number for Technology Center (TC) 2600 is 703-872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Customer Service Office for TC 2600 at 703-306-0377.

Kevin C. Harper



December 16, 2002

Seema S. Rao

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